

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Please replace the attached two (2) Replacement Sheets, including amendments to Figs.
3a and 16.

REMARKS

The present claim amendments are responsive to the Examiner's concerns noted in the Office Action.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 16, 20 and 23, and more specifically the allowance of claims 1-23 as noted in the fourth paragraph on page 7.

Summary of the Response

The drawings have been amended. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 11, 16, 23-25 have been amended. Claims 24-28 are re-presented. Claims 1-28 remain pending in this application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the present application as amended are respectfully requested.

Objections to the Drawings

Corrected Figs. 3a and 16 are attached herewith, which are not hand drafted. Applicant respectfully submits that the replacement drawings should now be acceptable.

The Examiner also objected to the drawings in that the drawings do not show "... a press with the punch in a manner whereby the punch is structurally decoupled from the press", as recited in claim 1. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Firstly, the similar structural recitation is found in claim 11, which the Examiner accepted.

Secondly, support for the recited structure in question has been clearly supported in the illustrated embodiments. The interface that mechanically interfaces a force from a press, with the punch in a manner whereby the punch is structurally decoupled from the press, is clearly shown in Figs. 7a and 7b, and Fig. 8b, for example.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 112

Applicant amended the claims throughout to provide proper antecedent basis in the affected claims noted by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as amended now meet the requirements of the second paragraph of 35 USC 112.

Re-Presentation of Withdrawn Claims

In view of the patentability of base claim 11, all the dependent claims, including the previously restricted claims 24-28, should also be patentable. Accordingly, previously restricted claims 24-28 should now be included in the case, and are allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of all the foregoing, Applicant submits that the claims pending in this application are patentable over the references of record and are in condition for allowance. Such action at an early date is earnestly solicited. **The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned representative to discuss any outstanding issues that may not have been adequately addressed in this response.**

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:
Replacement Sheets